Nantucket

Old and New

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GIVEN BY

Dr. Morton Prince

NANTUCKET: OLD AND NEW

CENTENNIAL EDITION

HENRY S. WYER
NANTUCKET, MASS.
1895

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NANTUCKET HISTORICAL DATA.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

1602—The Island discovered by Bartholomew Gosnold. Sankoty the spot first seen.

1630—About this date a war between the Western and Eastern tribes; the last Indian War on the Island, and the only one of which we have knowledge. The Island covered with forest trees, mostly oaks.

1641—Deeded to Mayhew & Son by Lord Sterling.

1659—Deeded by Mayhew for £30 and two beaver hats to

"THE TEN ORIGINAL PURCHASERS,"
viz.:

Tristram Coffin,	Thomas Macy,
Richard Swain,	Thomas Barnard,
Peter Coffin,	Christopher Hussey,
Stephen Greenlief,	and John Swain;
William Pile,	Thomas Mayhew retaining one-tenth of the Island, together with Maisquatuck or Quaise.

" Each of the above chose an "associate" with whom to settle the Island, viz.:

Tristram Coffin, Jr.,	Edward Starbuck,
John Smith,	Nathaniel Starbuck.
Robert Pike,	Thomas Look,
Robert Barnard.	James Coffin,
Thomas Coleman,	Thomas Mayhew, Jr.

The Island was purchased subsequently of the natives, who owned it in small tracts, the boundaries thereof being defined with surprising exactness.

" Thomas Macy and family, with Edward Starbuck, arrived from Salisbury

" Number of Indians on the Island, about 700; the soil rich and the Island covered with oaks and other trees.

1660—Starbuck visited Salisbury, and returned with 8 or 10 families. West end of Island bought from the Indians.

1663—Peter Foulger moved to the Island. The inhabitants, with the exception of Foulger, illiterate. Their occupation was fishing and farming. The Island, with the exception of Quaise, was divided into 27 parts.

1665—King Philip visited the Island.

1666—The first mill for grinding corn built on Wesko Pond.

1671—Town incorporated.

1672—Site of the Town moved to Wesko, its present location.

1673—Whaling commenced in boats from the shore.

" The town was named Sherburne, by order of Lovelace, Governor of New York.

1676—About this time Sesacacha (containing about 30 houses) and Siasconset Villages were built. Also the cluster of Whalehouses at Myacomet, together with the Fishing-Stages of Peedee and Quidnet, and the Fishing-Stage at Weweder. Sesacacha Village continued in existence about 140 years, the last houses of the place having been moved to Siasconset A. D. 1820.

1693—The Island (previously a part of New York) became a part of Massachusetts, in accordance with request of proprietors of the Island.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

1704—Up to this date, *i. e.*, for nearly half a century, the whites, though numbering now about 700 souls, had had no settled religious teacher, and were without a church, probably the solitary exception, in this respect, in all New England. They were, and had been during the half century, mostly Baptists, a few were Presbyterians, and one or two Quakers. The Mayhews had christianized the Indians, and the latter (with the New Testament translated into their language) had four Meeting-houses, their service (Presbyterian in form) conducted in their own language. During this year a Friends' Society was formed.

1711—The North Cong. Society formed, and the first Meeting-house (still standing in 1865) erected at the westward of the North Burial Ground. It was built of oak that grew on the Island. Names of the first pastors unknown.

1719—White population, 721.

1723—Straight Wharf built.

1726—White population, 917.

1730—Quanaty Hill dug away to make land from Union Street to the present shore.

1732—The Rev. Timothy White pastor of the First Congregational Society.

1761—The Rev. Joseph Mayhew pastor of the First Congregational Society.

1763-4—White population, 3,220.

Indian,	358.
Total,	3,578.

Indian Plague swept off 222 Indians, leaving only 136 on the Island.

1765—North Meeting-house removed to Beacon Hill (the present site). Out of 3,220 Whites only 47 were pew-holders. Whaling in boats from the shore ceased.

1767—The Rev. Bazaleel Shaw pastor of North Society.

NANTUCKET HISTORICAL DATA.—Continued.

1774—Population, 4,545; 1 clergyman, 2 doctors and 1 lawyer on the Island.
From organization of North Society in 1711 to 1781 the Island could only boast of having one settled clergyman. Nor had it any Public Schools.
1775-81—About 1,600 Nantucketers lost their lives in one way or another during and on account of the Revolutionary War.
1778—Ratable property on the Island, $866.630.
1784—Population, 4,269. Lighthouse erected at Great Point.
1790—Population, 4,620.
1791—First Whaling Vessel went from the Island to the Pacific.
1795—Name of town changed from Sherburne to Nantucket. Old North Tower erected. 3 wigwams (in Squam) only left standing on the Island.
1797—The Rev. D. Leonard pastor of North Society. Streets first named.
1799—The Rev. James Gurney pastor of same; he continued in charge twenty years.
1795—Nantucket Bank started, and robbed of $22,000 same year.

NINETEENTH CENTURY.

1800—The Academy incorporated and the building erected. It was not a Public School.
" Bell (weighing 1,000 lbs.) placed in North Tower.
" The Methodist Society organized.
" Population, 5,617.
1804—Pacific Bank and two Insurance Offices established.
1809—The Unitarian Society formed, the Rev. Seth F. Swift pastor. The North Society languishing on account of losing members to the Methodist and the Unitarian.
1810—Population, 6,807.
1815—Social Library instituted; Josiah Hussey, Esq., President.
1816—The Nantucket Gazette issued. It had but a brief existence.
1820—The Rev. Abner Morse pastor at the North. The Mechanics' Association, a literary society, was formed.
" Population, 7,266. 72 ships (21,600 tons) engaged in Whale Fishery.
1822—The last Indian died.
1823—Columbian Library Association formed.
1827—Two Public Schools established, and the Coffin School opened.
1830—Population, 7,202.
1834—The new North Meeting-house erected. Athenæum incorporated.
1836—Great Fire.
1838—High School opened. Great Fire in the town; loss $300,000.
1839—Trinity Church (Episcopal) erected, the Parish having been organized a short time before by the Rev. Moses Marcus, B.D.
1840—Population, 9,712.
1846—Great Fire, July 13 and 14. Whaling declines.
1847—Pine trees planted by Josiah Sturgis.
1850—Population, 8,779.
1852-3—Other Pine Groves planted.
1854—Gas lighted for first time on the Island
1855—Abram Quary (last man with Indian blood in him) died.
1860—Population, 6,094.
1865—Population, 4,748. Alumni Association (of High School) organized. 809 legal voters.
1870—Population, 4,123.
1872—Nantucket beginning to be a popular watering place.
1874—Two steamboats a day during summer, instead of one.
1875—Population, 3,201; 890 legal voters.
1876—Steam communication between town and Wanwinet.
1877—Great temperance movement.
1880—Population, 3,727. Introduction of water supply by the Wannacomet Water Company.
1881—Nantucket Railroad constructed to Surfside.
1884—Nantucket Railroad extended to Siasconset.
" Hotel "The Nantucket" constructed.
1885—Population, 3,142.
1886—Cable communication with Nantucket by the United States Signal Service. Consolidation of the N. & C. C. Steamboat Company with the N. B., V. & Nant. Steamboat Company, with corporate name "New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamboat Company." Steamer "Nantucket" built by the above company, and placed upon the route in July.
1889—Electric lighting introduced.
1890—Population, 3,268.
1894—State road (macadamized) to 'Sconset started, two miles completed.
" Nantucket Historical Association organized and incorporated, J. Sidney Mitchell, M.D., President. Friends' Meeting-house purchased for headquarters.
1895—Nantucket Central Railroad Company rebuilt road by shorter route to 'Sconset.
" Centennial celebration, anniversary of the changing of name from Sherburne to Nantucket; also, bicentennial of incorporation of County of Nantucket

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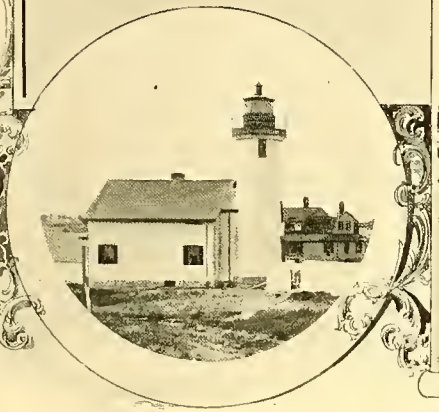
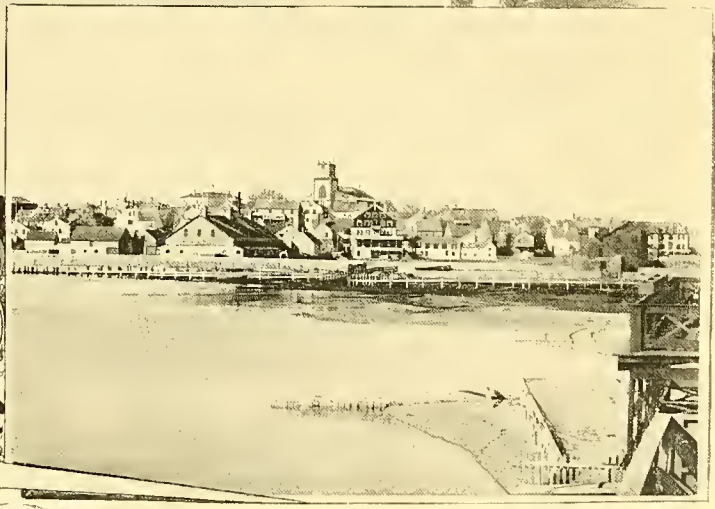
NANTUCKET
CHARACTERS

Town from
Brant Point.





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The Fishing Fleet

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THE STEAMBOAT WHARF

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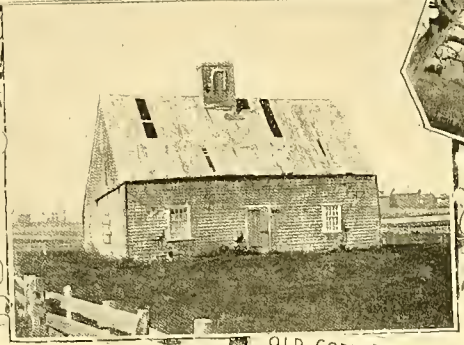
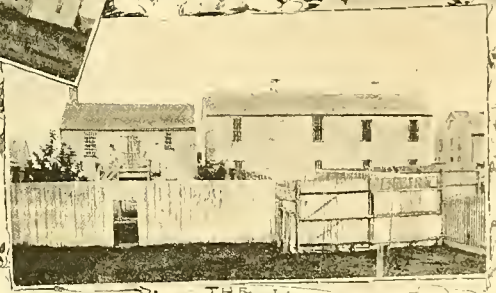
QUINCE STREET

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE



OLD COFFIN HOUSE 1686



THE JAIL

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Harbor from the Tower

North Cliffs

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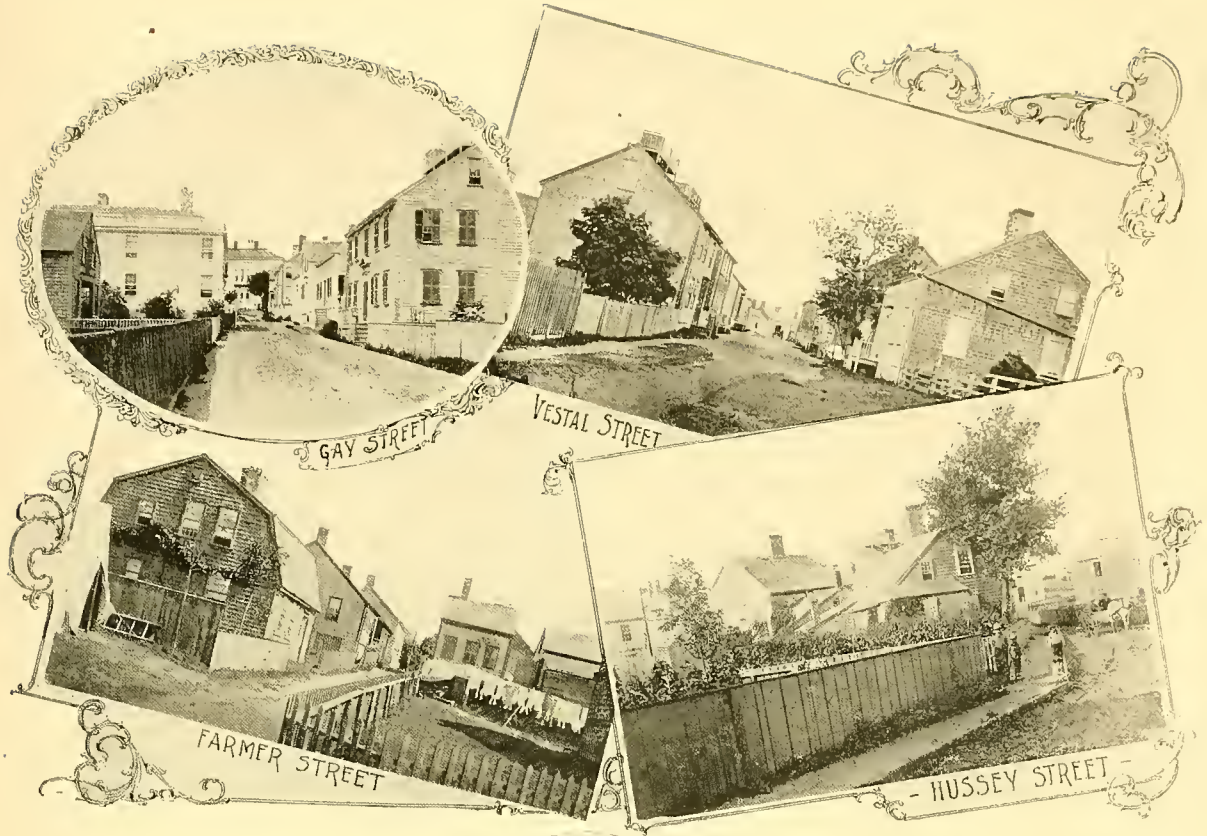
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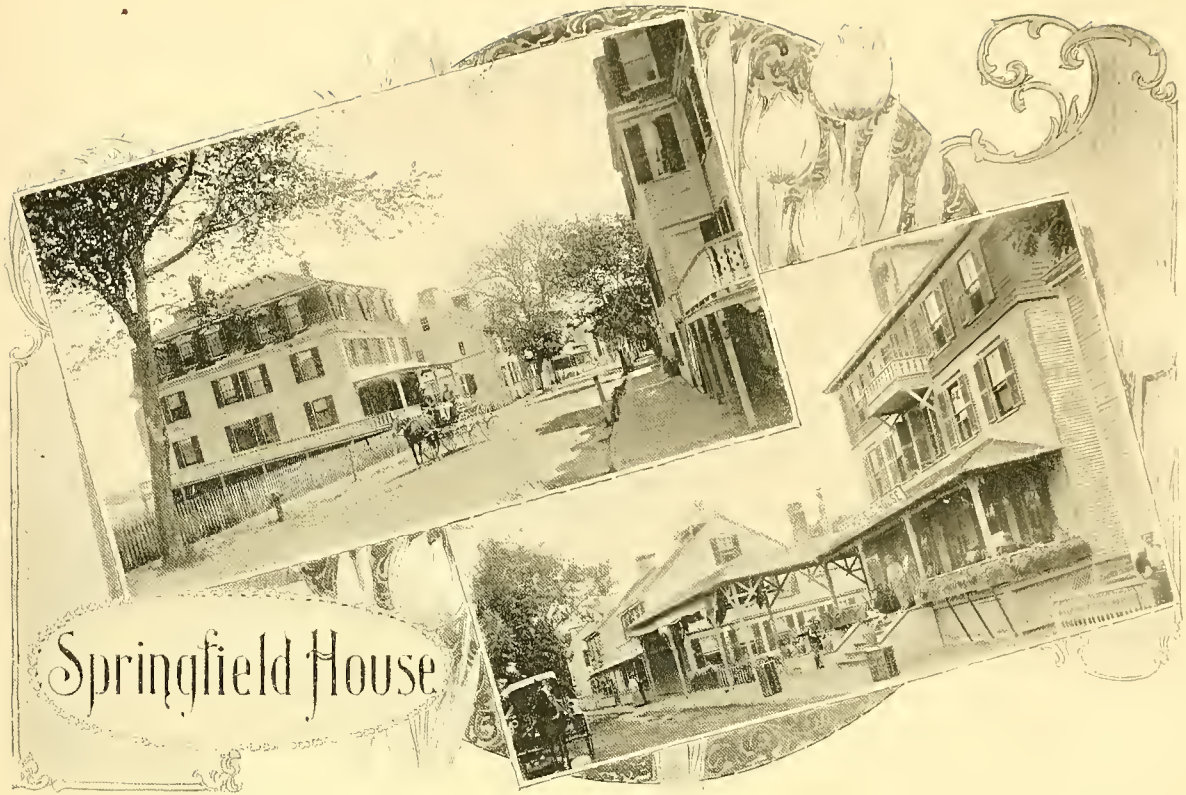

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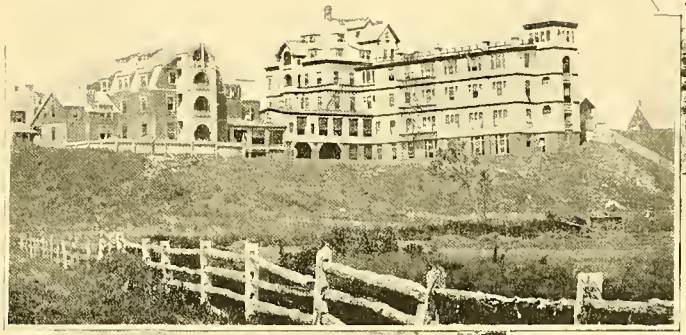
Seacliff Inn



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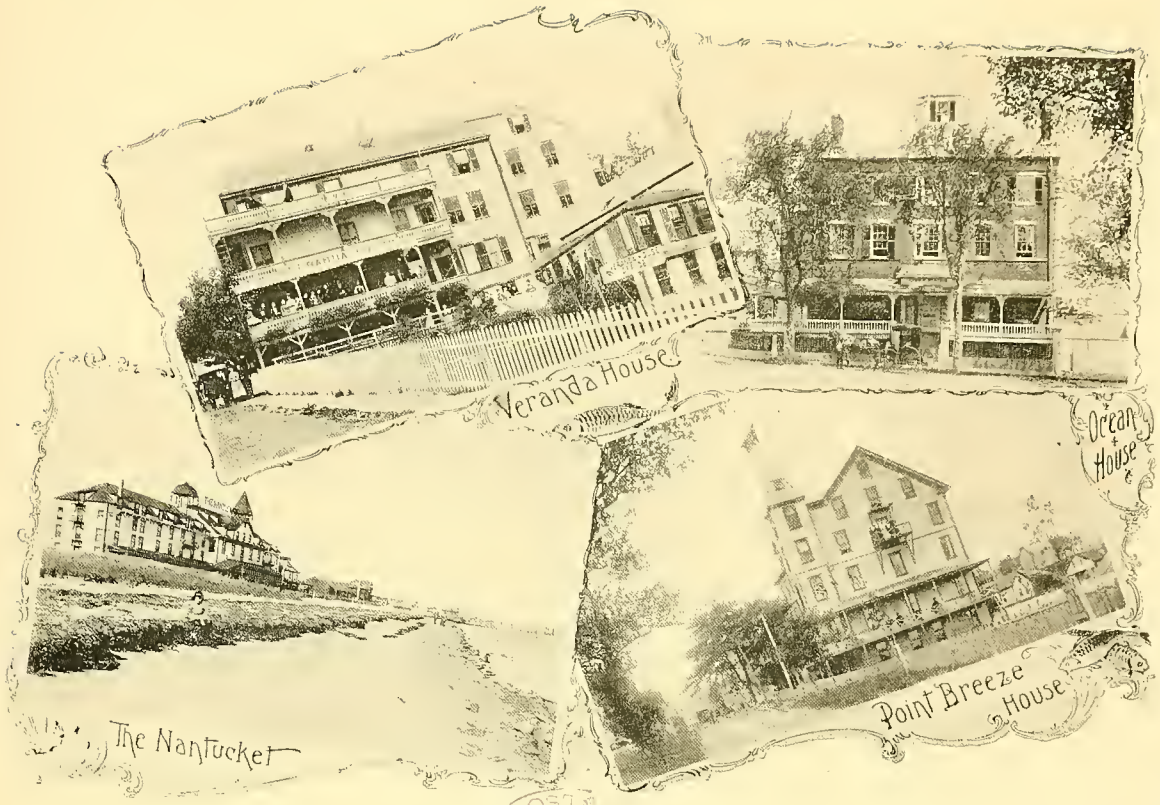

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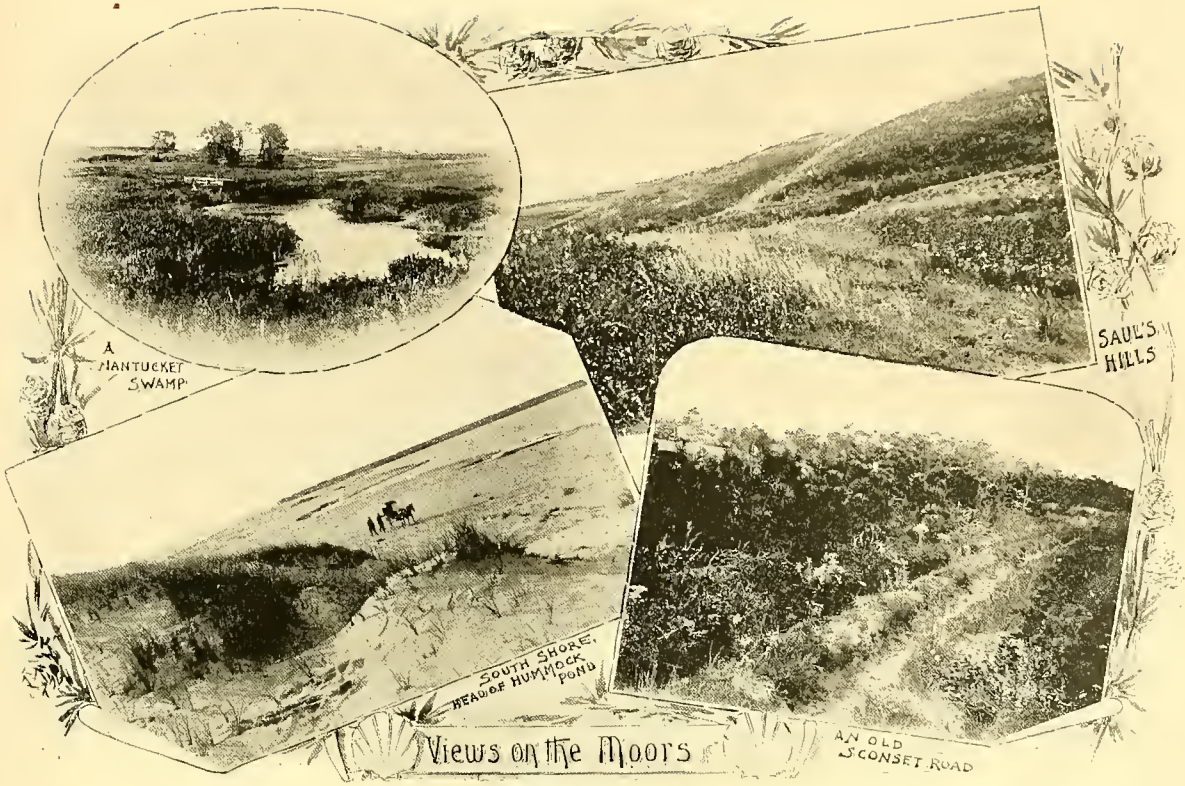

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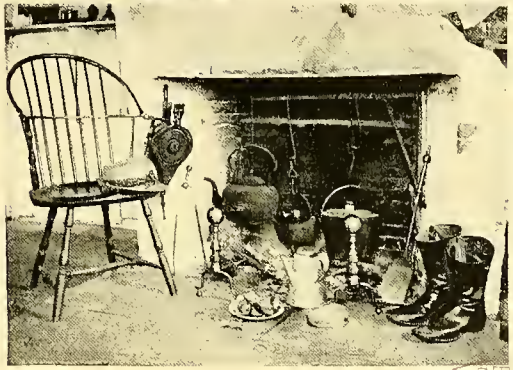

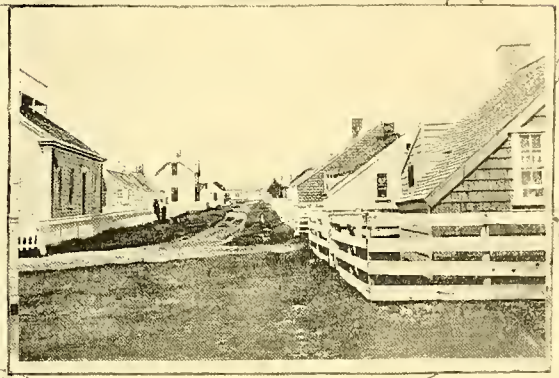

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